PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference NT1896PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below		
International application No. PCT/JP2005/000487	International filing date (day/month/year) 17 January 2005 (17.01.2005)	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 January 2004 (20.01.2004)		
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237				
Applicant HITACHI, LTD.				

1.	This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis. 1(a).				
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.				
In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.					
3.	This report contains indications relating to the following items:				
	Box No. I	Basis of the report	·		
	Box No. II Priority Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention				
			ion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial		
	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement			
	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited			
	Box No VII	Certain defects in the international application			
	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application			
4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis.2).					
			Date of issuance of this report 22 August 2006 (22.08.2006)		
The International Bureau of WIPO			Authorized officer		
34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland			Masashi Honda		

e-mail: pt08@wipo.int

Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70 Form PCT/IB/373 (January 2004)